



Coast Guard HR Flag Voice 148

COAST GUARD WORK-LIFE WEBSITE

I am pleased to announce the creation of a new Coast Guard Work-Life web site, on the Internet, at the following address:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/g-wkw/worklife/index.htm>

In 1998, a survey of work-life programs revealed that a large number of our people were not aware of all of the work-life services available to themselves and their families. Since that time, many improvements have been made to these programs, and additional programs and services have been developed within the Coast Guard for our people. The need to ensure that information regarding these programs is communicated to all members of Team Coast Guard is critical.

This new web site is intended to serve two purposes. First, it will provide members of Team Coast Guard and their families with an increased awareness of the services available to them, and information on how to access these services. Second, it serves as a real-time reference tool for Coast Guard leaders and supervisors so that they can better assist their people that may be facing difficult situations in their lives.

The web site features complete information -- arrayed in one place -- on programs and services that are normally offered by the Work-Life Staffs at the Integrated Support Commands (ISC) and the Headquarters Support Command. This includes Employee Assistance, Family Advocacy, Special Needs, Transition and Relocation Assistance, Child Care, Adoption Reimbursement and Health Promotion. The web site offers information regarding the purpose of each program, who is eligible, what references apply, how to contact the work-life staff, and where additional information can be obtained. As a reminder, to contact the Work-Life Staff nearest you, **call 1-800-872-4957** followed by the extension listed next to these ISC locations: Alameda (252), Boston (301), Cleveland (309), Honolulu (314), Ketchikan (317), Kodiak (563), Miami (307), New Orleans (308), Portsmouth, (305), San Pedro (311), Seattle (313), St. Louis (302), and Washington, DC (932).

In addition, the web site provides information regarding "Related Programs" offered throughout the Coast Guard that impact the quality of life for Team Coast Guard, most often in the form of a link to the web site which features that information. These programs include items such as Career Development, Chaplains, CG Exchange System, CG Mutual Assistance Program, Civilian Personnel Issues, Diversity, Housing, Leave Programs, Leadership Development, Legal Assistance, Medical and Dental Benefits, Morale/Well-Being/ Recreation, Reserve Issues, and Tuition Assistance. Points of contact for these programs are indicated at each of the links provided.

Asking for help when you are facing a problem is often difficult to do, especially if you consider the problem personally sensitive. However, asking for help at the right time, when intervention is readily possible, is actually

a sign of personal self-awareness and inner strength. Each of us should strive to ensure that members of Team Coast Guard feel that they have somewhere to turn when they are facing difficult situations in their lives. **Maximizing awareness of the services available from the Work-Life Staffs and other quality of life related programs, through the use of this website, will help each of us to be better prepared to help another Coast Guard family member in need.**

To maximize the use of this web site, people need to know it exists. **I am asking Commanding Officers and Officers-in-Charge to ensure that this information is made available to all members of their commands.** Individual members may want to consider adding a shortcut to this site to their desktops, to make it easier to access. Instructions on how to do this are included under the "How to Use This Site" button on the web site Home Page. Members are also encouraged to share this site with their families.

We will be improving this site to be more responsive to the needs of the Coast Guard family. **I encourage you to use the site often, and provide questions, concerns or suggestions for improvement.** To do so, use the "Feedback" button on the web site Home Page. Issues related to the delivery of services in your region should be directed to the Work-Life Staffs servicing your unit. Questions that apply to the overall management of Work-Life programs can be directed to CAPT Bob Skewes, Commandant G-WKW), at (202) 267-6160, or e-mail: rskewes@uscg.mil.

Special note: It has come to my attention that Flag Voice 95, "EXPEDITED REVIEW OR 'DEATH IMMINENT' PROCESS" contained an error in describing the housing entitlement.

In that Flag Voice, it stated: "**Military Housing: When a death imminent member dies, the Coast Guard may allow the dependents to continue to occupy military housing for 180 days. Dependents not in military housing continue to receive Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for 180 days.**"

THAT STATEMENT IS IN ERROR. If the expedited review or "death imminent" process results in the decision to retire the servicemember, then he/she is in a retired status and no longer entitled to active duty benefits. The Coast Guard may allow the dependents to continue to occupy military housing on a temporary basis, and by law we are not authorized to pay the housing allowance.

Since many are using the Flag Voice as a guide to assist commands during these situations, please change the statement to read: "Military Housing: Dependents in government housing will be allowed reasonable time to find a new place to live. They may be authorized to make a local move to vacate quarters. The dependents have up to one year from the date of the member's retirement to complete arrangements for a move to a home of selection. Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) stops when the member is retired. Dependents living on the local economy also have one year from the date of retirement to make a move to a home of selection."

Flag Voice 95 has been corrected in the Flag Voice archive: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/flagvoice/0contents.htm>

Regards, FL Ames



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